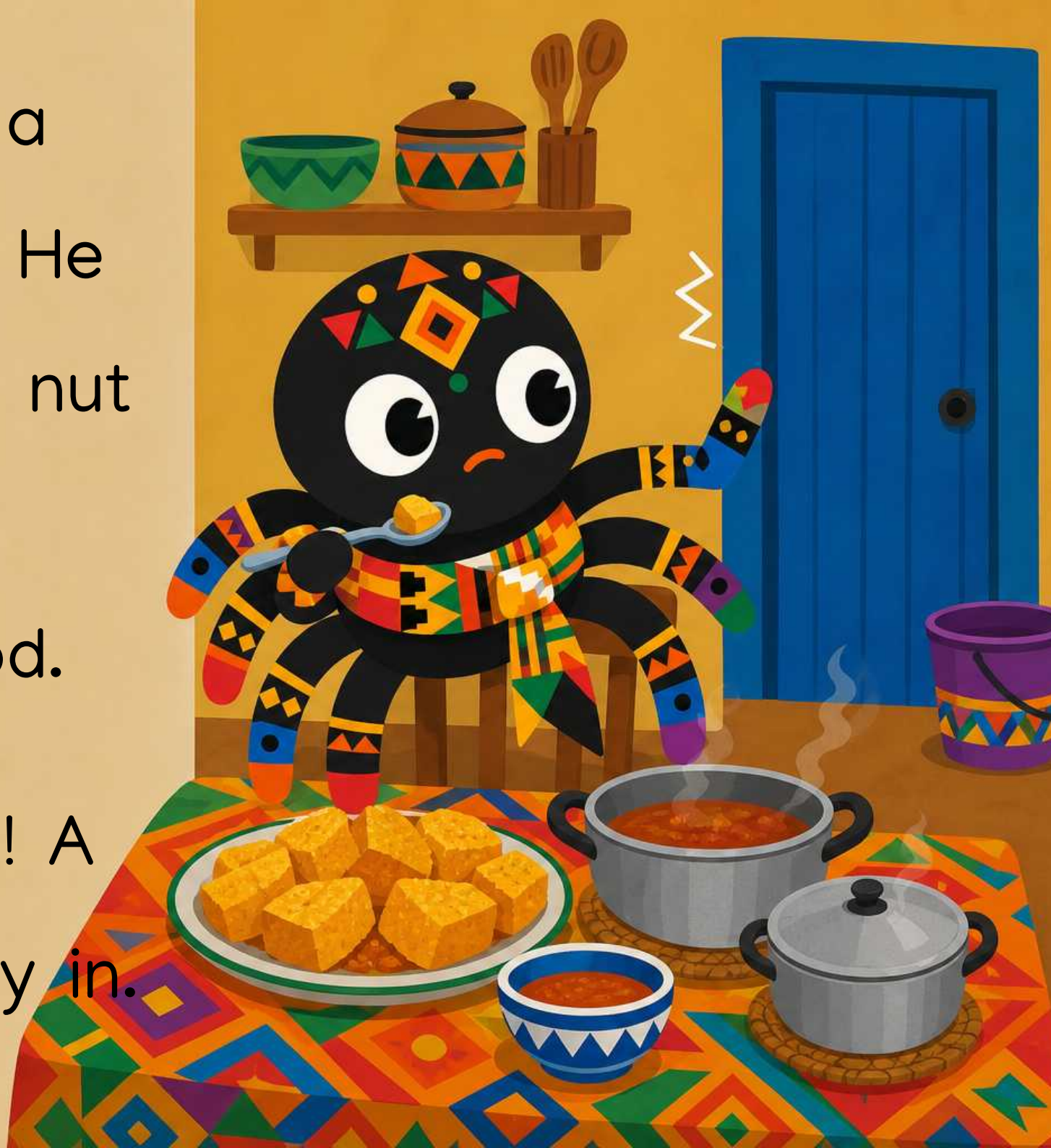


Turtle's Dirty Hands



Anansi cooks a
big hot feast. He
stirs the thick nut
dish, and it
smells so good.

Then, tap, tap! A
tap at the way in.





It is Turtle, dusty
from the long road.

'Anansi, I am so
hungry,' he says.

'First,' says

Anansi, 'go wash
that dirt off at the
river.'

Turtle comes back, but
Anansi is deep in the yams.
'I spy dirt!' says Anansi with
a smirk. 'Go back and wash.'



Turtle returns, and
now the pots sit
empty. 'The feast
is all done,' says
Anansi with a grin.

Turtle just nods.

Turtle has a plan.

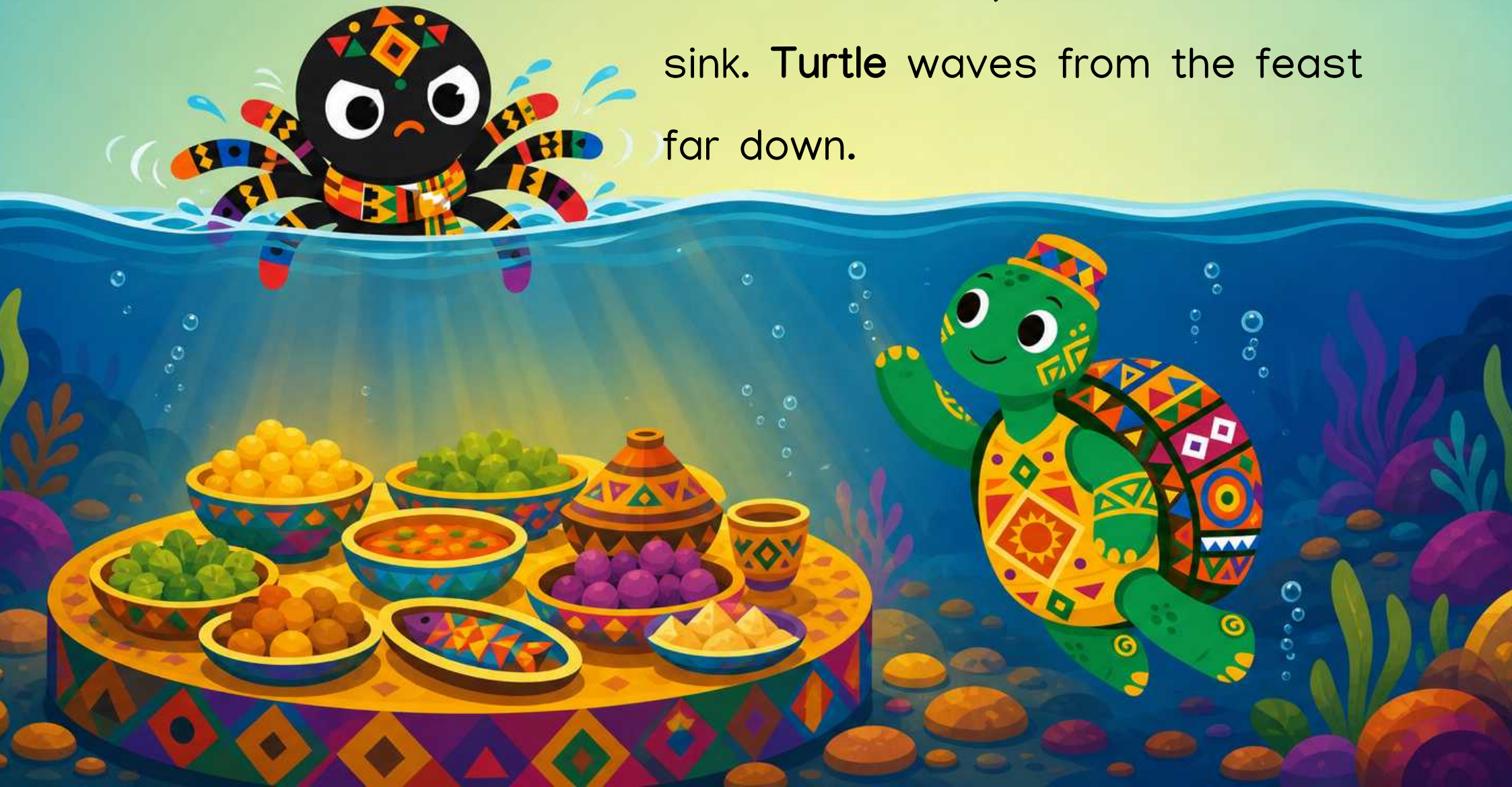




Turtle asks Anansi
to a feast deep
down in the river.

Anansi rushes to the
bank first thing. He
peeks at the murky
river and grins.

Anansi jumps in, but he bobs on the top. He kicks and spins and churns the river, but he can not sink. Turtle waves from the feast far down.



Turtle sinks back
down to eat.

Anansi spots firm
round stones in
the mud. 'Stones
will help me sink!'
he blurts. He has a
sly plan.





Anansi grabs a sturdy reed coat and packs six stones in it. Down he sinks, plop!

Turtle smiles and sets out the feast, fish and clams and sweet seeds.

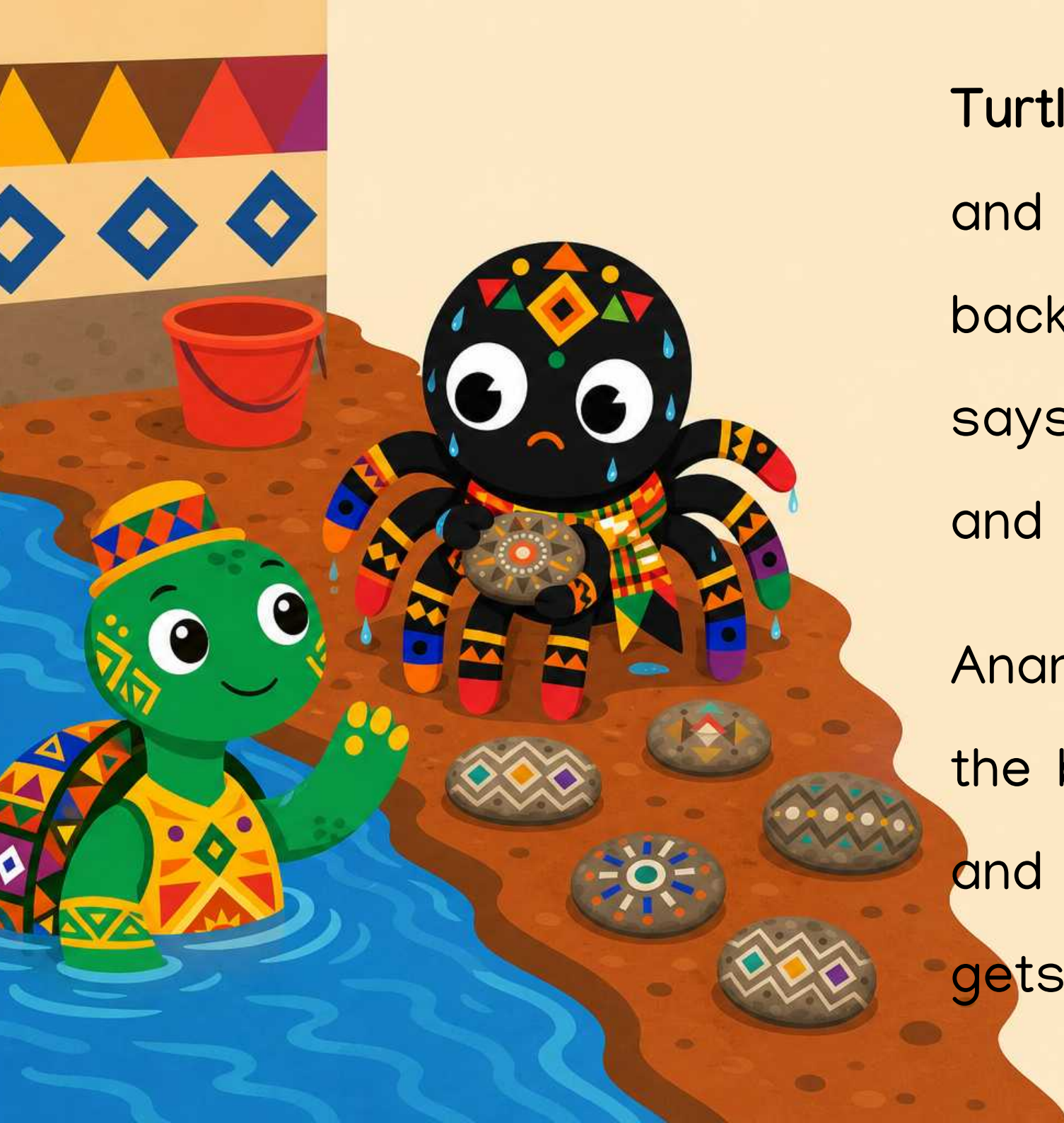
'First we take off hats and coats,' says Turtle. But if Anansi takes off the stiff coat, up he will go! He can not reach one dish. Turtle munches and slurps.



Anansi tugs at the coat, and the stones shift. Up he bursts, out of the river!

He twirls and lands on the bank with a thump. Wet stones hop in the dirt.





Turtle pops up, full and glad. 'Come back some day,' he says, and he turns and sinks.

Anansi sits wet on the bank. He thinks and thinks. Now he gets it.

Now Anansi feeds all who come. A dusty bird taps at the way in. 'Come in and eat lots!' says Anansi. No trips to the river, no dirt, no tricks.





Turtle's Dirty Hands

Turtle arrives at Anansi's door, dusty and hungry, hoping for a share of the feast. Every time he washes up at the river like a good guest, Anansi gobbles another pot bare before he returns. Turtle says nothing and simply nods, the way someone nods when they are already planning something else. So when an invitation to a feast at the bottom of the river arrives, what is turtle really planning for his old friend? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 2, Unit 11: er, ir, ur as in her, bird, turn), this book practices words like 'turtle', 'dirt', 'blurts', 'sturdy', 'murky'.

Phonics Focus: <er> <ir> <ur>

bird, blurts, bursts, churns, dirt, firm, first, murky, returns, slurps, smirk, stirs, sturdy, turns, turtle, twirls

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